

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5586  
INFO AMEMBASSY SOUL  
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
COMSUJAPAN YOKOTA  
USARJ CAMP ZAMA  
COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA

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E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS: PINT, JA  
SUBJETC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCHEDULE: NEXT SIX MONTHS

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE LISTS THE MAJOR UPCOMING DOMESTIC POLITICAL EVENTS OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, INCLUDING THE LIKELIHOOD OF A LATE SPRING GENERAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE SHAPE OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL AGENDA OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. THE MAJOR EVENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS (A QUESTION MARK - ? - BEFORE THE DATE INDICATES IT IS NOT FIRM):

DECEMBER 20-25 END OF CURRENT EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION NOW SCHEDULED TO END DECEMBER 20. 3-5 DAY EXTENSION MAY BE NECESSARY TO PASS REMAINING TWO IMPORTANT BILLS.

DECEMBER 27 - FORMAL OPENING OF 150-DAY REGULAR DIET SESSION. EXPECTED TO ADJOURN IMMEDIATELY FOR YEAREND HOLIDAYS.

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DECEMBER 29-30 - CURRENT DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF BUREAU-

UCRATIC AND LDP CONSIDERATIN OF JFY 1976 BUDGET. SEVERAL CHANGES IN PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTERS ALSO LIKELY.

JANUARY 21 - LDP CONVENTION. ALTHOUGH TOP FIVE PARTY OFFICERS WILL REMAIN, SWITHCHES IN SEVERAL LOWER PARTY POSTS LIKELY.

LATE JANAUARY - RESUMPTION OF REGULAR DIET SESSION. AFTER PRIMIN'S POLICY SPEECH, DEBATE ON BUDGET WILL COMMENCE.

?MID-LATE MARCH - LOWER HOSE PASSAGE OF BUDGET.

? MID-LATE APRIL (THIRTY DAYS LATER) - LOWER HOUSE PASSAGE OF BUDGET. AUTQOMATIC UPPER HOUSE BUDGET PASSAGE.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER LOWER HOSE DISSOLUTION.

?MID MAY - EARLY JUNE -GENERAL (LOWER HOUSE) ELECTION.

2. COMMENT. A LATE SPRING ELECTION IS NOW ALMOST TAKEN FOR GRANTED HERE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW IMPORTANT HOLD-OUTS, SUCH AS LDP VICE PRESIDENT SHIINA WHO CONTINES TO PLUMP FOR LATER IDSSOLUTION.X BUT AS LDP ELDER SHIGERU HORI TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 15, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONSIDER ANYTHING AFTER THE BUDGET PASSES. IF SO, IT IS UNLIKELY THATTHE DIET WILL GET DOWN TO SERIOUS COMSIDERATIMOM OF ANY NON-BUDGET SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION UNTIL LATE MAY TO MID-JUNE.

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